

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 CG-00

COA-01 DLOS-03 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SAM-01 /052 W

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R 140650Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3257

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB EWWT AO

SUBJECT: CEMENT COMPANY AND PORT PROBLEMS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. SECIL OVERSEAS, THE LARGEST CEMENT PRODUCER IN THIS PART OF AFRICA AND A MAJOR EXPORTER TO NIGERIA, GABON AND SEVERAL OTHER NATIONS HAS BEEN UNABLE FOR MONTHS TO MOVE ITS CEMENT OUT OF LUANDA WITH ANY DISPATCH BECAUSE OF PORT CONGESTION CAUSED BY A GENERAL SLOWDOWN OF DOCK WORKERS. SECIL HAS TOLD THE GOVERNMENT, FOR THE SECOND OR THIRD TIME WE SHOULD ADD, THAT UNLESS IT CAN GET PRIORITY FOR ITS SHIPS IT WILL SHUT DOWN IN ONE MORE MONTH. THE COMPANY CLAIMS TO HAVE

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LOST THREE MILLION DOLLARS LAST YEAR AND STANDS TO LOSE MUCH MORE

IF IT CANNOT FULLFIL ITS CONTRACTS THIS YEAR. SECIL HAS A 200,000
TON CONTRACT WITH NIGERIA AND ONE FOR 90,000 WITH GABON.

2. WHEN THE GABONESE WERE HERE FOR THE INSTALLATION OF THE
TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT THEY WENT TO SEE THE MINISTER OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION TO ASK FOR A RESOLUTION
OF THE PROBLEM. GABON DEPENDS UPON ANGOLAN CEMENT FOR
VIRTUALLY ALL ITS NEEDS AND ACCORDING TO THE GABONESE, PUBLIC
WORKS PROJECTS ARE ABOUT TO COME TO A HALT FOR LACK OF CEMENT.
THE MINISTER PROFESSED TO SEE THE PROBLEM AND PROMISED TO DO
SOMETHING TO RESOLVE IT.

3. THE LABOR SITUATION HAS SHOWN NO SIGN OF IMPROVING. THE
LIBERATION GROUPS RUNNING THE GOVERNMENT HAVE ISSUED A CALL TO ALL
WORKERS TO PUT OUT MAXIMUM EFFORT AND HAVE APPEALED FOR AN END TO
STRIKES. THEY ALSO SAID POINTEDLY IN A COMMUNIQUE THAT THEY WILL
NOT HESITATE TO CONVERT THE APPEAL INTO AN ORDER. THE WAITING TIME
AT LUANDA IS FORTY DAYS TO AS MUCH AS TWO MONTHS.

4. MEANWHILE, THE PORT SITUATION AT LOBITO REMAINS IN A
DISASTROUS STATE. WAITING TIME IS EIGHTY DAYS. MOST SHIPPING
CONFERENCES HAVE INCREASED THEIR SURCHARGES RECENTLY FOR BOTH
LOBITO AND LUANDA. ON FEBRUARY THREE CEWAL, WHICH PLIES THE
WEST COAST FROM NORTH SEA PORTS, IMPOSED AN EIGHTY PER CENT
SURCHARGE FOR IMPORTS TO LOBITO, AND FIFTY PERCENT FOR EXPORTS.
ON THE SAME DATE CEWAL RAISED ITS SURCHARGE IN LUANDA TO SEVENTY
PERCENT. NAWL (NORTH AMERICAN WEST AFRICAN LINES) THE CONFERENCE
TO WHICH DELTA AND FARRELL LINES BELONG, IMPOSED A FIFTY PERCENT
SURCHARGE AT LOBITO AND LUANDA BEGINNING FEBRUARY FIFTEEN.
SURCHARGES FOR OTHER CONFERENCES RANGE UP TO ONE HUNDRED
PERCENT (UNITED KINGDOM AT LOBITO).

KILLORAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PORT CONGESTION, CONCRETE PLANTS, CEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LUANDA00179
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750054-0162
From: LUANDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750242/aaaabln0.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CEMENT COMPANY AND PORT PROBLEMS CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY
TAGS: ELAB, EWWT, AO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006